

## LETTER

FROM

## THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*The draught of a bill embodying proposed legislation for the punishment of persons making or having in possession dies and molds for manufacturing counterfeit coin.*

JANUARY 17, 1878.—Referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be printed

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
January 16, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith draught of a bill, prepared by the Solicitor of the Treasury, embodying proposed legislation for the punishment of persons making or having in possession dies, molds, &c., for manufacturing counterfeit coin; also copies of letters from the Solicitor, dated January 15, 1877, and January 14, 1878, pertaining to the matter.

I fully concur in the opinion of the Solicitor, expressed in his letters, and request consideration of the proposed act with a view of having it put upon its passage as soon as practicable.

Very respectfully,

JOHN SHERMAN,  
Secretary.

Hon. W. A. WHEELER,  
President United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OFFICE OF SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY,  
Washington, D. C., January 14, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a draught of a bill for the punishment of persons making or having in possession dies, molds, &c., for manufacturing counterfeit coin, and to refer to a letter of this office of the 15th of January last, addressed to your predecessor, urging the necessity of the passage of such a bill by Congress.

The draught inclosed with that letter received, as I understand, the approbation of your predecessor, and action was taken by him according to the suggestion made.

I would respectfully renew the suggestions made by this office, as I have been given to understand that there is urgent necessity for an act of Congress for the prevention and punishment of the offenses contemplated.

Very respectfully,

K. RAYNER,  
Solicitor of the Treasury.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY,  
Washington, D. C., January 15, 1877.

SIR: My attention has been directed to the fact that there is no statute of the United States under which the making, dealing in, or having possession of dies, molds, &c., for manufacturing counterfeits of the coin of the United States and of any coin in current use as money; and, in connection with this, I am advised that in certain parts of the country persons are known to be engaged in making dies, &c., designed to be used by them or others in making spurious coin, yet they cannot be reached under any law applicable, because they are not engaged directly in manufacturing the coins or in issuing the same.

The successful results attending the means employed to suppress the counterfeiting of the paper money of the United States and the recent resumption of the circulation of silver coins have served to direct the energies of counterfeiters to a new field of operations, seemingly attended with less risk of punishment, and offering, it may be, equal profits to the offenders.

There is a statute which guards the issuing of counterfeits of paper money by punishing severely any person having in possession a plate engraved in counterfeit or similitude of any note issued by the United States, and there seems to be just as much reason that the penalties of the law should operate in the same effectual way to prevent the manufacture and issuing of spurious coinage.

Proper attention, it seems to me, should be given at once to this subject, that the desired legislation may be had during the present session of Congress. Accordingly I have caused a draught of a bill to be prepared in this office, which I believe will cover any offense in the direction mentioned.

Will you please, in case it meets your views, cause it to be submitted for presentation to Congress.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE F. TALBOT,  
*Solicitor of the Treasury.*

Hon. L. M. MORRILL,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

---

AN ACT for the punishment of persons making or having in possession dies, molds, &c., for manufacturing counterfeit coin.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That every person who shall make, or cause or procure to be made, any imprint, stamp, impression, implement, mold, or any device or contrivance whatever which may be used for the purpose of counterfeiting any of the coins of the United States which have been or may hereafter be coined or stamped at the mints of the United States, or of any of the coins of foreign countries, or who shall make, or cause or procure to be made, any imprint, cast, stamp, impression, implement, mold, or any device or contrivance whatever which may be used for the purpose of making any coin or device in similitude of any of the said coins of the United States or of foreign countries, or shall aid or assist in making such imprint, stamp, die, impression, implement, mold, device, or contrivance which may be used for the purpose of counterfeiting such coins of the United States or of any foreign country, or of coins in similitude of such coins of the United States or of any foreign country, such person shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars and by imprisonment at hard labor not more than ten years.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That every person who shall have in his possession, custody, or control any imprint, stamp, die, impression, implement, mold, or any device or contrivance whatever which may be used for the purposes mentioned in the preceding section, with intent to use the same, or to suffer the same to be used, or to dispose of the same in any way for the purpose of being used to counterfeit any of the coins of the United States or of any foreign country, or to manufacture any coin or metallic device in similitude of any coins of the United States or of any foreign country, such person shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars and by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years.